

AT WASHINGTON.

FURTHER REVIEW OF LEGISLATION
BY MRS. DIGGS.How the Ways and Means Committee
Failed to Catch Populist Mem-
bers—Impeachment Talk.

Special Correspondence.

"I arrest you in the name of the house of representatives." Such were the startling words addressed to about forty members of the house by the officers sent into various parts of the country to bring back to their post of duty the patriots who were hiding away from the Wilson bill. Beautiful spectacle, isn't it. The country is the most deplorable condition, even Chauncy Depew and Governor McKinley own up now, and the men who have been elected to congress to devise ways and means to promote the general welfare go skulking off in order to prevent a quorum and delay legislation. How do you gentlemen taxpayers and sovereign voters like such performances? A genuine republic you have, haven't you? Only it takes you some little time to get what you want.

THE INCOME TAX.

Ah, there's the rub. No sooner was this measure carried in the ways and means committee than there was a commotion second only to that over the repeal bill of the special session. Without any question the vast majority of the people, as well as the majority of the members of the house, believe in this measure of justice. But the very hour that the committee voted to bring it before the house, the most energetic and persistent warfare against it has begun. The Washington papers sprang to the front with interviews of prominent men and with editorials denouncing it as "un-American, unjust, inquisitorial and impossible." The great dailies of the eastern cities with one accord piped the same chorus. Oh, it is easy to see how "public sentiment" is manufactured in this country. The swift telegraph sends the orders of the capitalistic class to the editorial fraternity just the hour that any of their interests are menaced by a proposed act of national legislation, and with one united pen the hired writers do the bidding of their masters and label their editorials, "The Will of the People." The most comical of all the trashy objections yet waged against the income tax was enunciated by the sap head who leads New York's social 400. Ward McAllister says that if congress passes this law, the best people of this country will be forced to go abroad. Gentlemen will not submit to having their private affairs invaded. How sad beyond expression it would be were America to be deprived of the Ward McAllisters. If the income tax is inquisitorial, then all taxation is the same. By what right does an appraiser inquire as to the value of a man's farm? By what right does this official snoop about the barn to see if there is a buggy, or about the house to learn if there is a piano or organ? Why not take a club to the next inquisitorial minion of the law who seeks to find out if you own a watch? A man who carries a watch possesses at least one of the essentials of a gentleman, and gentlemen should never submit to having their privacy invaded. A few years ago, when the people were waking to the fact that the great beef combine was ruining the farmers who had hitherto made a profit from cattle raising, a senate committee was appointed to investigate the Armour beef combine. Senator Plumb was a member of that committee. He strove in vain to compel the

"gentlemen" of the combine to make a showing of their methods of transacting business. The Big Four were mightier than the United States government, and refused. It may be remarked also that these are inquisitorial features about a tariff for revenue only. Gentlemen, and ladies also, must submit to a most offensive inspection of their trunks, luggage and even their persons. The sensitive newspaper nerve which quivers in such anguish over the inquisitorial process as applied to the wealthy betrays not the slightest discomfort over the fact that the private affairs of several millions of poor men, citizens of this republic, are being mercilessly invaded. Nearly every large city in the country has an organization known as the Associated Charities. One of the distinguishing features of these societies is their record wherein must be kept a detailed statement of the number of times the individual has applied for help, the precise state of his poverty, his antecedents, his moral status, and numerous other inquisitorial data. The statement was made recently before the District of Columbia committee that 50 per cent. of the workmen of Washington were out of employment, and that hundreds of those who had been compelled to accept charity or starve were of the skilled working class, who were humiliated beyond description and suffered untold torture before they revealed the state of their domestic affairs. Why, oh why are not the newspapers laden with indignant protests against a condition which subjects millions of useful, honorable workmen to impertinent mention of their private affairs. Another pet point of the plutocratic press is that the law will prove a failure because the wealthy will evade it. So, then, the United States government holds no jurisdiction over the rich, and no law must be enacted of which they disapprove since they will merely refuse to obey. No anarchy about that. Again, it is reiterated that the law will be a great destroyer of morals; that men will make false oaths as to their business receipts. Men who, under the present beautiful system and order of business, are models of honor and truthfulness, fit companions for the archangels in heaven and the bankers on earth will fall into demoralization under the operation of an act of congress. Presto change! what contradictory logic these editors use. At one time they will disclose that you can't legislate morality into men; at another time they will reverse the rule and declare that you can legislate immorality double quick into the best society and the most honest business men in the nation.

A TRICK.

The ways and means committee tried to put up a neat little game on the Populists in the house. Knowing that the Populists favored the income tax the democrats intended to use them to assist in getting the Wilson bill before the house for debate, promising to attach the income tax feature later but intending after a time to withdraw the income tax and substitute the bond issue. The democrats expected the most servile submission from the Populists and counted on their votes to obtain their quorum. But one man learned of the trick and refused to vote with the democrats for a quorum until they were assured of the introduction of the income tax and were also promised party recognition and time for debate. John Davis, Late Pence and Jerry Simpson will make speeches on the income tax. No man can tell, so how could a woman, whether or not the bill will become a law? One thing is certain if the combined power of Grover Cleveland, millionaire capital-

ists, bribe money, official patronage and the hireling press can prevent it, the income tax bill will not become a law. But if the people would exert their power of "initiative" and sufficiently demand that their professed representatives obey their will this just measure would succeed. The people are mightier than all the combined plutocratic powers did they but know it.

TALK OF IMPEACHMENT.

But it is all talk. While it is true that a few aged republican partisans like Senator Hoar would be glad to see the democratic president impeached, yet most of the congressmen look upon the Hawaiian affair as a mere diversion, a something to get pleasantly excited over, and with which to vary the monotony of tariff talk. Even in the dire and not improbable result of the country becoming involved in war, our ruling classes would doubtless hail it as a providential way of getting rid of some superfluous people. Moreover, a war just about now would serve as a clinching argument for the issuance of bonds.

THE WILSON BILL.

Is fairly under way. Nothing new, of course, can ever be said about the tariff, yet Mr. Wilson in his opening speech restated with much force and clearness, the truth that the workmen of the shops were not the protected ones. The laborers of the mills and mines are in unprotected competition with the labor of every country on the globe. There is no duty on imported men. Protected laborers are the first sufferers, the first to be thrown out homeless and helpless when "hard times" are brought on. Protected industries are the first to shut up shop when Wall street orders a panic. We unprotected farmers and all other unprotected tradesmen stand the pressure of "object lessons" longer than the protected millionaires of mills and mines. Why is this? Simply because the protected owners of mills and mines have made larger profits in their business and a temporary cessation of production will not affect them as disastrously as the merchant, the grocer, or other tradesmen. Hence the owners of mills and mines can shut down, throw out their men and go abroad for a tour of foreign lands until such time as it will be more profitable to re-open, well knowing that idle laborers by the thousand will stand waiting for work. There is no human being so utterly unprotected as the protected American laborer.

AGAINST THE WILSON BILL.

On the republican side Mr. Burrows made an eloquent and effective speech which won so much applause from the galleries that the speaker threatened to deny them the luxury of seeing the show. The most fetching (that word is used much by the English, I've adopted it recently) part of his speech was the unrolling and flinging in the face of the democrats a petition fifty feet long from Texas democrats against the free wool clause of the Wilson bill. Wasn't that a good joke on Brother Wilson? And doesn't it show how easy it is to tell which party a man belongs to by his attitude on the tariff? Here were southern democrats, wool growers from Texas, furnishing weapons to a Michigan republican to assist him in killing off a democratic tariff bill.

GENERAL BLACK.

The former commissioner of pensions, distinguished himself yesterday by denying that there was as much poverty and distress in the country as Mr. Burrows has stated in his speech. Said Mr. Black. "There never was a country in the world where human misery and human want did not wait on human incompetence and improvidence." What an inhuman,

cruel and base insult to the hundreds of temperate, industrious, "skilled workmen" out of work right here under the awful shadow of the dome which rises over the heads of scoundrels who deliberately strike down the industries of a great nation and bring on the very poverty for which they insult their helpless victims. But it shall not long be thus. The light of truth, the gospel of political common sense is rapidly spreading. There will never be another as hard a winter on this continent as this pitiless one. My heart aches to bursting for the true men, the loving women, the sweet, helpless children, who will die of want before the change shall come. But surely a loving God will see that the next life hath compensations for those whom we tried to help but could not, and who perished pitifully by the wayside before our blessed system of fraternity crowded out the vicious paternalism of the present regime.

ANNIE L. DIGGS.

Washington, January 11.

Shawnee County Alliance.

The January meeting of the Shawnee County Alliance was held in Topeka, January 5, 1894, with thirty-two members present. The secretary and treasurer made their reports and the finance committee reported them all correct.

The following officers were then elected: President, D. I. Furbeck; vice president, Sister B. A. Otis; secretary, A. H. Wetherbee; treasurer, Addison Hughes; lecturer, John G. Otis; assistant lecturer, Alex. McRoberts; chaplain, J. M. Harrington; doorkeeper, L. C. Betz; assistant doorkeeper, A. E. Kopp; steward, Sister Leah Corbett.

Judiciary committee—J. O. Butler, J. W. Wise and Sister L. M. Furbeck.

Finance committee—Brother Whitecotton, C. H. Custerbender and Sister Wardall.

Brothers Lewis, Otis, McConnell, and Sisters Wardall and Pack constitute the committee on program.

Brothers Wetherbee, Custerbender and Sister Pack were elected committee on entertainment of delegates for the National Alliance meeting in this city February 6, 1894.

All stockholders in the State Exchange were earnestly requested to meet with us February 2, at 10 a. m., with the view of electing a county trustee stockholder.

The county lecturer, Hon. John G. Otis, has agreed to speak once at each sub Alliance, without money and without price, where they make the necessary preparations and notify him in time so that there may be no conflict in dates.

We hope that each Alliance member will see that he is in good standing and the secretaries will report at once to the county secretary so that all the members wishing to do so may attend the sessions of the National Alliance February 6 and 7.

Notice was given that a motion would be made at the February meeting to change the time of meeting and a large "turn out" was hoped for so that the change, if made, would be satisfactory to as many as possible. The meeting will be held in the league rooms over the county treasurer's office.

A. H. WETHERBEE,
Secretary Shawnee County Alliance.

How's This.

We offer One Hundred Dollars Reward for any case of Catarrh that cannot be cured by Hall's Catarrh Cure.

F. J. CHENEY & CO., Props., Toledo, O. We the undersigned have known F. J. Cheney for the last fifteen years, and believe him perfectly honorable in all business transactions and financially able to carry out any obligation made by their firm.

W. & T. H. A. Wholesale Druggists, Toledo, O. W. & T. H. A. Wholesale Druggists, Toledo, O. Hall's Catarrh Cure is taken internally, acting directly upon the blood and mucous surfaces of the system. Price 75 cents per bottle. Sold by all Druggists. Testimonials free.